



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

April 14, 2008

TO: Interested Persons

RE: Animal Massage Certification

The 2007 Legislature passed a law establishing a program to formally certify animal massage practitioners. This new law directs the Department of Health to adopt rules to regulate this new profession, including rules to set requirements for education, examination and fees to support the program.

Under state law, all professional licensing programs must be self supporting. That means licensing fees must pay the costs. The fees must be adopted and in place before people can apply and be certified to practice. Under Initiative I-960, all new fees or fee increases must be approved by the legislature. Since the legislature did not authorize fees for the program during the 2008 legislative session, we will not be able to implement the certification program for animal massage therapists at this time.

You may practice animal massage if:

- You are a licensed veterinarian.
- You are a licensed veterinary technician employed by a licensed veterinarian.
- You are a veterinary assistant employed by a licensed veterinarian.
- You are a licensed human massage practitioner and you have completed the additional animal massage training and obtained the animal massage endorsement.

We will keep you advised of any information related to the program as it is available. This will include a web site for your profession. We will let you know when the web site is on line.

Please feel free to contact me at (360) 236-4828.

Sincerely,

Judy Haenke, Acting Executive Director  
Department of Health  
Health Professions Section Four

